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To Whom It May Concern:

The FRC helped me and my family in many ways. The two ways I would like to share are:

1. When I was looking for preschool for my oldest daughter Isabela the Parent Educator helped to connect me with the New London Day Nursery and kept in contact with the director of that program until a slot became available and my child was able to get in. Isabela is currently in the preschool program and loves to go to school.
2. While I attended the playgroup with my youngest daughter Camila she was not walking, and it became very hard for me to carry her with my disability. The staff of the FRC was very helpful with suggestions and support because it was very hard to manage two children, one who is very busy and into everything and a toddler who was unable to move around independently. With the help of my home-visiting parent educator working with Camila she made her very first steps at the playgroup. I am so grateful for the FRC because they are always kind and supportive to me and my children.

The things I would miss the most if the FRCs were cut from the state budget: I am from a low income area and this would affect the quality support that the program offers like, playgroup and group connections, field trips which offer my child exposure to activities that she would not otherwise be able to be exposed to. A safe place for her to explore and learn from children her own age. An opportunity for me to see the future school that my children will be attending and meet the school officials and ask questions.

The FRC means having somewhere to bring my youngest daughter Camila to play and have that extra support and expertise of the Parent Educators, to help me with parenting education and referrals. I would miss the support that it gives my daughter, in providing a structured play area with educational resources to help her to build relationships with children her own age, also the time that I have to build relationship with others parents, learning and share ideas.

The FRC staff provide a safe and loving support for me and my two daughters. I can speak to them with any questions or concerns I have and they are always ready to offer me resources, assistance, and referrals when needed. I am asking that you please reconsider your decision to cut the FRC from the budget - families like myself really appreciate and need these services.

Sincerely yours,

Jessica Yanez